

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A table extension device configured to extend a medical table, comprising:
 - 5 an elongated plate including a continuous sheet with at least one bend formed therein defining opposite attachment and support sections of the plate, the attachment section being configured to extend under a mattress of the medical table and to be stabilized by a patient's body weight, and the support section being configured to extend outwardly from the medical table to support a patient's limb.
 - 10 2. A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the continuous sheet has at least two bends; and further comprising:
 - an intermediate section, intermediate the attachment and support sections, oriented substantially transverse to both the attachment and support sections.
 - 15 3. A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the plate has a substantially constant thickness.
 4. A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the plate has a thickness less than approximately one inch.
 - 20 5. A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the attachment and support sections are substantially planar and substantially parallel with one another and substantially non-coplanar with one another.
 - 25 6. A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the attachment and support sections have upper surfaces disposed at different elevational heights.
 - 30 7. A device in accordance with claim 6, wherein the upper surface of the support section is disposed at an elevational height above the upper surface of the attachment section, the height being substantially equal to a thickness of a mattress disposed on the medical table, so that the upper surface of the support section is substantially flush with an upper surface of the mattress.
 8. A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the attachment and support sections are substantially planar and are oriented at an oblique angle with respect to one another.

9. A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the support section is formed of an x-ray transparent material.

5 10. A table extension device configured to extend a medical table, comprising:
 a) an elongated plate having opposite attachment and support sections, the attachment section being configured to extend under a mattress of the medical table and to be stabilized by a patient's body weight, and the support section being configured to extend outwardly from the medical table to support a patient's limb; and
10 b) the attachment and support sections having upper surfaces disposed at different elevational heights.

11. A device in accordance with claim 10, further comprising:
 an intermediate section, intermediate the attachment and support sections,
15 oriented substantially transverse to both the attachment and support sections.

12. A device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the attachment and support sections have a substantially constant and equal thickness.

20 13. A device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the attachment and support sections have a thickness less than approximately one inch.

14. A device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the attachment and support sections are substantially planar and substantially parallel with one another and substantially non-
25 coplanar with one another.

15. A device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the plate includes a continuous sheet having at least one bend between the attachment and support sections.

30 16. A device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the upper surface of the support section is disposed at an elevational height above the upper surface of the attachment section, the height being substantially equal to a thickness of a mattress disposed on the medical table, so that the upper surface of the support section is substantially flush with an upper surface of the mattress.

17. A device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the attachment and support sections are substantially planar and are oriented at an oblique angle with respect to one another.

5 18. A device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the support section is formed of an x-ray transparent material.

19. A table extension system configured to extend a medical table, comprising:

10 a) a plurality of separate, elongated plates including at least:

i) an armboard extension configured to extend laterally from a lateral side of the medical table; and

15 ii) a footboard or headboard extension configured to extend longitudinally from an end of the medical table;

b) each of the plates having opposite attachment and support sections, the

15 attachment section being configured to extend under a mattress of the medical table and to be stabilized by a patient's body weight, and the support section being configured to extend outwardly from the medical table to support a patient's limb; and

20 c) the support section of the footboard or headboard extension having a width substantially equal to a width of the medical table; and

20 d) the support section of the armboard extension having a length substantially equal to the width of the medical table.

25 20. A system in accordance with claim 19, wherein each of the plates includes a continuous sheet having at least one bend between the attachment and support sections.

25 21. A system in accordance with claim 19, wherein the attachment and support sections of each of the plates have upper surfaces disposed at different elevational heights.

22. A table extension device configured to extend a medical table, comprising:

30 a) an elongated plate including a continuous sheet with at least one bend formed therein defining opposite attachment and support sections of the plate, the attachment section being configured to extend under a mattress of the medical table and to be stabilized by a patient's body weight, and the support section being configured to extend outwardly from the medical table to support a patient's limb;

- b) the attachment and support sections having upper surfaces disposed at different elevational heights; and
- c) the attachment and support sections have a substantially constant and equal thickness less than approximately one inch.

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23. A method for extending a table to facilitate a medical procedure, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a table having a table surface and a mattress disposed on the table surface with a mattress surface configured to receive a patient;
- b) disposing an attachment section of an elongated plate between the table surface and the mattress;
- c) positioning a support section of the elongated plate adjacent the mattress with a support surface of the elongated plate substantially flush with the mattress surface;
- d) positioning a patient over the mattress; and
- e) positioning a limb of the patient over the support section of the elongated plate.

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24. A method in accordance with claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

providing a plate with the support section being formed of an x-ray transparent material; and

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positioning at least a portion of a medical imaging device adjacent a lower surface of the support section.

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25. A method in accordance with claim 23, further comprising the step of:

providing a plate including a continuous sheet having at least one bend between the attachment and support sections.

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26. A method in accordance with claim 23, further comprising the step of:

providing a plate including a continuous sheet having at least two bends between the attachment and support sections, and an intermediate section intermediate the attachment and support sections, oriented substantially transverse to both the attachment and support sections.

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27. A method in accordance with claim 23, further comprising the step of:

providing a plate that has a substantially constant thickness.

28. A method in accordance with claim 23, further comprising the step of:
5 providing a plate with the attachment and support sections being substantially planar and substantially parallel with one another and being substantially non-coplanar with one another.

29. A method in accordance with claim 23, further comprising the steps of:
10 providing a plate with the attachment and support sections having upper surfaces disposed at different elevational heights; and
disposing the upper surface of the support section at an elevational height above the upper surface of the attachment section, the elevational height being substantially equal to a thickness of the mattress disposed on the medical table, and the upper surface of the support section being substantially flush with the support surface of the mattress.

15 30. A method in accordance with claim 23, further comprising the step of:
providing a plate with the attachment and support sections being substantially planar and are oriented at an oblique angle with respect to one another.

31. A method for facilitating medical imaging, comprising the steps of:
20 a) positioning a patient on a table;
b) positioning a limb of the patient over a support surface of an elongated plate extending from the table, the elongated plate being formed of an x-ray transparent material and having a lower surface and a thickness between the lower surface and the support surface less than approximately one inch; and
25 c) positioning at least a portion of a medical imaging device adjacent the lower surface of the elongated plate.

32. A method in accordance with claim 31, further comprising the steps of:
30 a) disposing an attachment section of an elongated plate between an upper surface of the table and a mattress disposed on the table; and
b) positioning a support section of the elongated plate adjacent the mattress with the support surface of the elongated plate substantially flush with an upper surface of the mattress.

33. A method in accordance with claim 31, further comprising the step of:
providing a plate including a continuous sheet having at least one bend between the attachment and support sections.

5 34. A method in accordance with claim 31, further comprising the step of:
providing a plate including a continuous sheet having at least two bends between the attachment and support sections, and an intermediate section intermediate the attachment and support sections, oriented substantially transverse to both the attachment and support sections.

10 35. A method in accordance with claim 31, further comprising the step of:
providing a plate that has a substantially constant thickness.

15 36. A method in accordance with claim 31, further comprising the step of:
providing a plate with the attachment and support sections being substantially planar and substantially parallel with one another and being substantially non-coplanar with one another.

37. A method in accordance with claim 31, further comprising the steps of:
20 providing a plate with the attachment and support sections having upper surfaces disposed at different elevational heights; and
disposing the upper surface of the support section at an elevational height above the upper surface of the attachment section, the elevational height being substantially equal to a thickness of the mattress disposed on the medical table, and the upper surface of the support section being substantially flush with the support surface of the mattress.

25 38. A method in accordance with claim 31, further comprising the step of:
providing a plate with the attachment and support sections being substantially planar and are oriented at an oblique angle with respect to one another.

30 39. A table extension device configured to extend a medical table, comprising:
a) an elongated plate having opposite attachment and support sections, the attachment section being configured to extend under a mattress of the medical table and

to be stabilized by a patient's body weight, and the support section being configured to extend outwardly from the medical table to support a patient's limb; and

b) the support section being formed of an x-ray transparent material and having a thickness less than approximately one inch.